

Center for Migration Research Lecture Series

Jennifer Raff Department of Anthropology

Demography and Migration History of the Aleut Peoples

The initial migrations of peoples from Beringia into the Americas during the late Pleistocene have been the subject of intense anthropological research. For several years, the accepted model has suggested the ancestors of Native Americans became genetically isolated from the Siberian gene pool approximately 20,000-30,000 years before present (YBP), occupied Beringia during the Last Glacial Maximum for 7,000 to 15,000 years, then dispersed southward into the Americas as glacial masses covering much of North America melted, around 14-16,000 YBP. These events, long thought to be explainable through a relatively straightforward scenario, have been shown through high resolution genomic studies in recent years to be much more complex. In particular, surprising findings have emerged about the ancestry and prehistory of the indigenous peoples of the Aleutian archipelago. This talk will discuss ongoing research into the complex migrations that peopled the Aleutian Islands, and the implications that research has for our understanding of the prehistory of the Americas.



May 1st at Noon
Centennial Room
Kansas Union

